



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

Office of Communications

703-248-5003 (TTY 711)

FAX 703-248-5146

publicinfo@fallschurchva.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Barbara Gordon or

Hyun June Lee

703-248-5003 (TTY 711)

Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation Visits City for Updates on State-Funded Water Quality Improvements Projects

On Thursday, Sept. 10, representatives from the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) met with City staff to learn about the City's water quality achievements that were funded by DCR's water quality improvements fund grant.

Since partnering with DCR in 2007, City staff have pushed forward with nine construction projects and 25 rain barrel workshops, all of which were aimed at improving water quality in the City and neighboring jurisdictions. Projects included cistern installations at the Property Yard and Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and rain garden construction throughout the City.

Beyond direct environmental improvements, staff sought out educational and community benefits to include murals from local artist Bill Abel and community and classroom instruction, which was supported by nonprofit "Lands and Waters." Staff from DCR noted the positive model that City's highly successful rainwater harvesting programs and community involvement programs represent to other communities.

Attendees from DCR included Jack Frye, Director of Soil and Water Conservation, Mike Foreman, Assistant Director of Soil and Water Conservation, Bob Slusser, Potomac Watershed Field Coordinator, Kelly Vanover, Potomac Watershed Regional Manager, Robert Shoemaker, Nutrient Management Specialist, and Jay Marshall, Nutrient Management Specialist. Vice Mayor Hal Lippman, Planning Commissioner Lindy Hockenberry, City resident Tim Stevens, City Manager Wyatt Shields, Assistant City Manager Cindy Mester, and other City project staff attended.

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